

Secretary Fox Addresses OCTE Staff



“I want to make this technical education system the best in the nation because you are a practical pathway to jobs.”

**Education Cabinet Secretary
Virginia G. Fox**

KY Education Cabinet Secretary Virginia G. Fox made a special visit to address Office of Career and Technical Education central office employees during a regularly scheduled monthly staff meeting on Monday, August 16, 2004.

Accompanied by Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura Owens, Fox emphatically put to rest the apprehension that many have regarding the future of KY Tech. She said, “Let me address an unfounded fear. Tech Ed is NOT being taken over.”

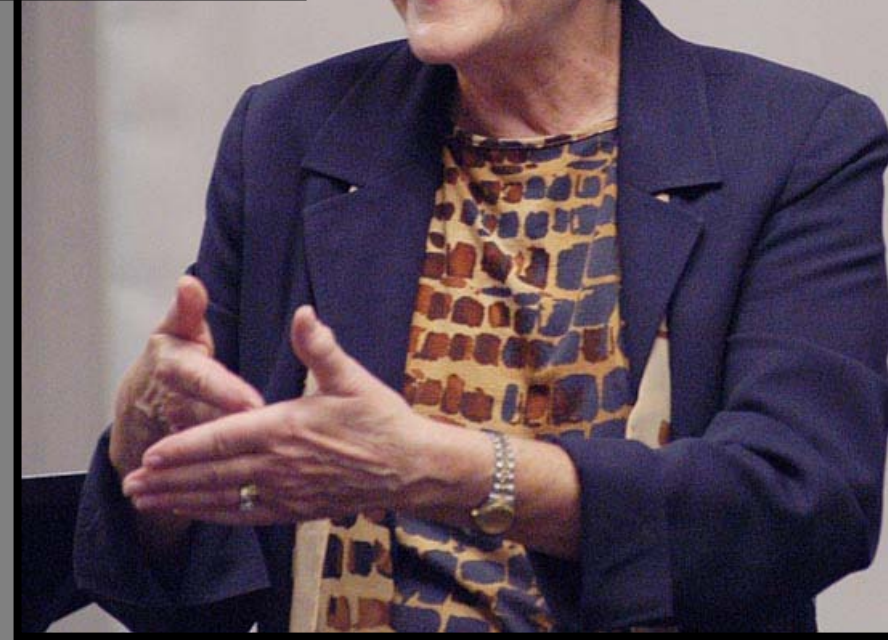
During her comments, Fox underscored the importance and function of technical education in Kentucky by complimenting our role in creating a viable and valuable workforce and our involvement in

economic development. She requested that all schools “develop local partnerships based on local employment needs; be community-driven; and specialize and develop relationships with local business leaders.”

“You are not just involved in technical education, you are involved in workforce development. In fact, we need more technical education and you are the rapid response team,” said Fox. “I believe, and Governor Fletcher believes, that our tech centers are a gateway to better economic times.”

Secretary Fox made specific reference to an idea called the “middle college concept.” She would like to see technical education become involved in this arena.

Current national discussion and continuing debate has the middle college concept covering grades 9-14, although not set in concrete. The whole objective is to make education seamless. One of her goals is to have the area technology center serve as an applied laboratory, where hands-on skills and academic theory are blended and become transparent.



Fox has embraced The American Diploma Project (ADP). She feels the ADP is a good fit with technical education because the goals include developing programs where students demonstrate what they must learn in order to be admitted to a postsecondary institution or to be hired by an employer. If you would like additional information about the ADP, please visit the following website:

<http://www.achieve.org/achieve.nsf/AmericanDiplomaProject?OpenForm>

Rigor, relationship and relevance are three words Secretary Fox asked everyone to keep in mind. Rigor meaning that we must overcome the inflexibility and rigidity in education today by developing positive relationships with the local school district in order to deliver a meaningful technical education component that has relevance to the world of work and to the educational system.

There was no doubt left in the minds of anyone; Secretary Fox believes technical education is important in creating a viable workforce; must be aligned with the K-12 market; is a good fit for the American Diploma Project, and is an entryway to economic development.

“I want you to be a first resort, not a dumping ground,” said Fox. “It’s easy to show what you do and I want to make this technical education system the best in the nation because you are a practical pathway to jobs.”